DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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MURDER IN ESSEN

West German police murdered a young German patriot and seriously wounded two others when they fired point-blank into a peaceful crowd of young people demonstrating in Essen on Sunday May 11th.

The 20,000 young people, representing the Boy Scouts, Catholic and Protestant youth groups, Social Democratic youth and the Free German Youth, had come to Essen in a "Peace Caravan" organised by Pastor Herbert Mochalski, secretary of the "Fraternal Council" (Reichsbruederrat) of the Evangelical Church.

Aim of the rally was to demonstrate against a new war, and in particular against the "General Treaty" being coucluded between the Bonn government and the western powers.

A few hours before the meeting was due to take place the rally was banned, and Essen was turned into an armed camp as thousands of special mobile police poured into the city.

The shooting took place at 11 a. m. in front of the Essen Flower Show, where large crowds of young people had assembled, despite the ban. Baton charges by foot and mounted police, and attacks on the crowd by police dogs added to the roll of injured. A total of 261 persons were taken into custody.

The young man killed was Philipp Mueller, a member of the Free German Youth. The seriously injured were the Social Democrat Bernhard Schwarze from Kassel, and the young trade unionist Albert Bretthauer from Muenster.

Friends of peace in East and West Germany replied to the murder in Essen at huge demonstrations during the week, which combined protests against police brutality with calls for a just peace treaty with a re-united Germany.

In the third week in May workers of all parties in West Germany combined in the most powerful demonstrations seen since the pre-Hitler days. In all big West German cities workers struck work for several hours to demonstrate their opposition to the Adenauer government.

The strikers — 170,000 in Hamburg, 70,000 in Dusseldorf, 60,000 in Mannheim — carried banners opposing Adenauer's war treaty with the western powers, and the planned West German factory law, which would rob trade unions of many hard won rights.

In many union branches, particularly in the Ruhr, resolutions were passed calling on the union leadership to declare a general strike to prevent the signature of the separate war treaty.

PHILIPP MUELLER

Born April 5th 1931 in Munich
Murdered on May 11th 1952

Philipp Mueller was a fair-haired muscular, laughing Bavarian, who loved skiing, swimming and mountaineering.

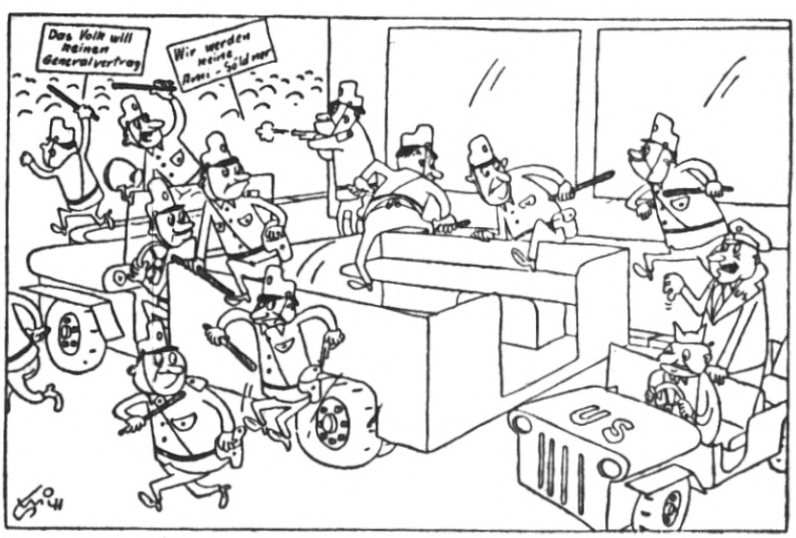
He worked in the rail-yards in Munich as a mechanic until he was fired in August 1951 because he had attended the World Youth Festival in Berlin.

Early in 1951 he married. His little son Achim is now five months old.

Philipp had grown up in Nazi Germany and knew what war meant. When dozens of West German youth groups in April began organising a "Peace Caravan" to Essen, to demonstrate against a new nazi army and for a peace treaty he was one of the most active supporters of the idea in Munich.

On May 11th, in Essen, in front of the big flower exhibition, Philipp was murdered by shots from a police revolver.

NORTH ATLANTIC WAY OF LIFE?



"Go on boys. Give 'em democracy". (from the Berliner Zeitung)

NATIONAL RESISTANCE ANSWER TO WESTERN TREATY

By Walter Ulbricht

(At a press conference in Berlin on May 12th Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht outlined the attitude of the government of the German Democratic Republic to the Contractual Agreement (generally known in Germany as the General Treaty) scheduled to be concluded shortly between the West German government and Britain, France and the United States. Here is a condensed version of his statement.

If the Adenauer government in West Germany signs the General Treaty, then it will stand clearly revealed as an American protectorate. This will mean that this government is playing the same role as the Petain government in France under the nazi occupation, and the German people will deal with it accordingly.

The particular job of the Adenauer government is to turn West Germany into a war base for the United States for a war of aggression against the democratic forces in Europe.

The signature of the General Treaty will mean furthermore that the troops of the United States, Britain and France in West Germany will be clearly revealed as intervention troops.

Signature Invalid

The signature of the General Treaty will not be legally binding for the German people. The German people, the population of West Germany, can and will make the fullest use of their right of national resistance against the rule of the American, British and French troops of occupation and against the Adenauer government. The signature of the General Treaty would be, for the people of West Germany, the signal for the development of the national liberation struggle.

(Referring to the position of West Berlin, and the fact that western planes flying to Berlin frequently left their route, Walter Ulbricht then stated:)

The people of West Berlin will see very clearly the result of the signature of the General Treaty. It is very easy to solve the West Berlin problem. West Berlin only needs to adopt normal relations with the German Democratic Republic. This would result in ordinary trade and economic relations. The workers would have work and the factories would hum with activity. West Berlin would present no problem if it were not for the fact that the Americans regard it as their military bridgehead, as their base for provocative actions.

If the war mongers think that they can send American, British or French planes flying around over the territory of the German Democratic Republic, then they are in error. We know very well that when these planes leave their prescribed route they do it as part of the preparation for war, for instance to photograph the Leuna Works or some other factory as a preparation for bombing it at a later date.

No Armed Forces

I have been asked whether our proposal to create an armed defence force is connected with the General Treaty. There is of course a very direct connection. At the moment we have no armed defensive force, and at the moment we do not even have the right to prouce revolvers for our own police.

If the General Treaty is signed, however, thus transforming West Germany into a war base for the United States, it is understandable to everyone that a simple extension of the peace movement is not sufficient answer. It is necessary to take protective measures against the mercenary troops which it is intended to employ against the German Democratic Republic.

We believe that the holding of all-German elections, the creation of an all-German government and the conclusion of a peace treaty would be the cheapest and best way for the German people.

It should have been possible to have met by now on the basis of the proposals made by the Soviet government for a peace treaty.

U. S. Fears Election

But in Washington, London and Bonn the answer to the proposal has been a speeding-up of the work on the General Treaty. This means that the American government and the Bonn government are frightened of all-German elections. They are scared of such elections because they guess, and guess rightly, that whatever the political complexion of the National Assembly elected, it would insist on a peace treaty and national sovereignty for Germany.

A peace treaty however would mean the withdrawal of the occupation troops from Germany. That is what the United States opposes, that is why they are against all-German elections and why they find all possible excuses to avoid a four power conference.

Opposition to the General Treaty is by no means confined to people associated with the peace movement. In factories, union meetings, by means of protest strikes and warning strikes the workers have shown their opposition to the General Treaty. The Social Democratic Party has declared its opposition, and there are clear signs of a crisis in the ranks of the coalition parties in Bonn. As a result of pressure from below a number of members of the Bonn parliament have declared against the General Treaty.

The members of the Bonn parliament know very well that those who vote for the General Treaty will be marked men, and that they must be prepared to face their punishment from the people.

In May 1933 middle-class members of parliament and even Social Democrats voted their approval of Hitler's foreign policy, and have never been punished for it. This cannot be allowed to happen again.

Western Reply on Peace Treaty — More Delay

The United States, Britain and France, replying on May 13th to repeated Soviet proposals for a speedy peace treaty with Germany, proposed procedure which would delay the conclusion of such a treaty for months or years.

Main points of the western reply were:

1. Germany must be included in the West European alliance and, by implication, in the Atlantic Pact.
2. "It is not possible to hold discussions now about the provisions of a German peace treaty."
3. The four-power commission to investigate the possibility of holding free elections proposed by the Soviet Union would be "a retrograde move." The western note proposed investigation either by a United Nations Commission or by some other "impartial commission."

First comment in East Germany was that the proposal for such investigation by an "impartial commission" followed by four power talks was intended to delay the whole question until it had been possible to rush through the contractual agreement with West Germany, and establish a new nazi Wehrmacht in West Germany.

Adenauer's Consul in San Francisco was Jew-baiter

The West German Consul-General in San Francisco, Gerhard Stahlberg, took an active part in Hitler's massacre of the Jews, documents published in West Germany prove.

On December 11th, 1941, Stahlberg, who worked at that time in the legal department of Ribbentrop's Foreign Ministry, drew up and signed a document dealing with the treatment of foreign Jews in Germany and of German Jews in other parts of occupied Europe. In this document he proposed that such states should conclude a collective agreement excluding Jewish citizens from the rights and protection to which they would otherwise be entitled.

Soviets responsible for security on international motor-road

The Soviet authorities are solely responsible for the security and regulation of traffic on the Autobahn, the motor-road linking West Berlin and West Germany, Major General Trussov, Soviet Deputy Chief of Staff in Germany, stated in a letter to his American opposite number on May 13th.

Major General Trussow pointed out that an agreement had been signed on June 29th 1945 by Marshal Zhukov for the Soviet Union and General Weeks for Britain, specifically acknowledging Soviet control of the road. He protested that despite this agreement and a whole series of subsequent agreements with the British and American authorities, British and U. S. armed military units had recently attempted to patrol the road.

In his letter Major General Trussov drew the attention of the American and British authorities to the fact that Soviet Military patrols had been instructed to insist on the strictest observation of traffic rules on the road.

American-licenced paper screams for armed action

"In future the western powers should send their planes to Berlin by whatever route they choose, and give them fighter cover" stated the American-licenced West Berlin newspaper "Tagesspiegel" in a provocatively worded appeal for "action."

In the same article the newspaper, which sometimes acts as mouthpiece for the most sabre-rattling group in the American Command in Berlin, called for the razing of the Soviet War Memorial in front of the Reichstag, just inside the British Sector of Berlin.

"This memorial is a provocative reminder of robbery and murder" the paper said.

IKE LIKES NAZIS?

Letter to Hitler's Admiral

General Eisenhower, Supreme Commander in Western Europe "appreciates" the importance of releasing the nazi war criminals who are still serving sentences for war crimes, his aide stated in an official letter to former nazi Admiral Gottfried Hansen.

During March 1952 Admiral Hansen, who is chairman of the militaristic "German Soldiers' Association" in West Germany, wrote to General Eisenhower calling for a general amnesty for all war criminals. His letter stated in part:

"In those cases where there was anything to expiate, these men have already paid in full by seven years imprisonment. In our view the great majority of these men only did their duty.

"We want a general amnesty, not only for those serving sentences in the German Federal Republic but also those in durance in foreign lands, and of course the 'Spandauers' (The main nazi criminals including Hess and Doenitz, who are held in Berlin's Spandau Prison. ed.).

"Perhaps in the near future German soldiers will be placed under your command, and you will certainly want to have soldiers serving under you who have a firm moral basis for their actions."

On April 10th Lieutenant Colonel C. Craig Cannon, A. D. C. to General Eisenhower, sent the following reply, here retranslated from the German:

"Dear Admiral Hansen,

General Eisenhower has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you sent him a short while ago, and to convey to you his appreciation of the points made in your letter. The general fully appreciates the reasons which led you to write the letter, and is glad to know of your views on the question of a general amnesty for German prisoners. He believes that you will understand that such questions do not fall within his provenance, but can only be tackled by agreement between the governments concerned.

Thank you once again for your letter. I should like to convey to you the general's very best wishes."

Police appeal to avoid criminal acts

A group of democratically-minded policemen in the West Berlin police force have issued an appeal to their comrades to avoid all acts of terror against the friends of peace.

A leaflet illicitly circulated in all West Berlin police stations stated in part:

"The Commanders of the West Berlin police are preparing bloody incidents similar to that in Essen. We must not allow our uniform to become a criminal uniform. When the time comes for punishment to be meted out we shall not be punished simply for wearing the uniform of the West Berlin police. Only those who have committed crimes against the German people and the youth will be held responsible.

"In recent weeks many of our colleagues have left our ranks and placed themselves under the protection of the People's Police. Think carefully before taking any such step, which should only be taken if you are in immediate danger. Stay in the West Berlin police, since you can give more effective help to the struggle for peace and unity from here.

"Do not allow yourselves to be used for criminal purposes on the orders of the traitors in Bonn and West Berlin. Do not carry out orders to act against the friends of peace. Support the peace movement carefully and cleverly. Watch out for agents of the American Counter Intelligence in our ranks. Struggle together with our whole nation against the General Treaty and for a Peace Treaty."

East and West Youth Groups work out minimum demands

Representatives of Protestant and Catholic Youth Groups, Boy Scouts, Social Democratic Falcons and Free German Youth, meeting between May 10th and 12th in Berlin worked out a list of minimum demands to which all groups could give their support. The meetings were held partly in East Berlin and partly in West Berlin.

Full agreement was reached on the following points:

1. The Four Powers should negotiate the reunification of Germany on the basis of all-German free elections.
2. Round table talks among Germans themselves should be encouraged both on the parliamentary level and on other levels.
3. No vital decisions may be taken without the consent of the German people.
4. Rejection of the General Treaty and all other agreements hindering German unity.
5. Rejection of all hate propaganda.
6. Encouragement of east-west trade.

MURDERERS... SPIES... ARSONISTS... SABOTEURS... THUGS

"Blood-hounds" derail trains, prepare attack on steel works

Fifteen members of a sabotage group which named itself "The Blood-hounds" have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment by the Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic.

Evidence was given at the trial that members of the group had:

a) **derailed two freight trains, causing considerable damage and injuring five workers;**

b) **made active preparations to blow up a blast furnace at the "Ost Iron Kombinat," the great new steel works on the Oder river;**

c) **carried out espionage assignments for the American and French Secret Service.**

Guenther Hermann, leader of the group, who had served in the nazi spy service, and Ernst Wagner, who personally supervised the derailment of the trains, were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Other members of the group, including Eva Phillipsborn-Kerzin, who was recruited into the U. S. Intelligence Service in 1945 by a man whose name was given as "Major Johnes," were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from four to twelve years.

Death sentence for political murder

Death sentences were passed by the Muelhausen Provincial Court, East Germany, on the two Fascist thugs who beat to death a 56 year old trade unionist on April 30th. The brutal murder was reported in GERMAN REPORT dated May 9th.

Evidence was given that the two thugs had committed the murder under the influence of propaganda broadcasts from RIAS, the American controlled radio station in West Berlin.

Babette and the Fire-bombs

Three persons have been caught red-handed attempting to fire the ship-building yards in Angermuende in the German Democratic Republic, the Ministry of State Security announced.

The leader of the group, Alfred Weigel, was a member of the West Berlin sabotage organisation called "Fighting Group against Inhumanity" which makes no secret of the fact that it is subsidised by official U. S. and West German sources. He was caught together with his father, Josef Wilhelm Weigel, a former active nazi, and a girl named Melitta Anna Babette, in the act of placing phosphorous fire bombs in particularly inflammable parts of the shipyard.

When searched they were found to be armed, and in possession of fused explosives, as well as further fire bombs.

Investigations conducted after the arrest proved that Alfred Weigel had made a number of trips to West Berlin, where he received technical instruction in sabotage work, the Ministry of State Security announced. In addition to sabotaging the shipyard he had been charged with the task of collecting espionage information and undermining in all possible ways the economic and political stability of the German Democratic Republic.

Ten years jail for stabbing

Two Mecklenburg farmers have been sent to prison for ten years for the attempted murder of the secretary of the local group of the Socialist Unity Party.

Evidence was given that the two men, Franz Groth and Siegfried Drewing, had attacked Leo Stolz, the secretary, knocked him down and stabbed him in the stomach with a ten inch knife, inflicting a wound which was nearly fatal.

Both men had a long record of black-marketing offences and other anti-social acts, and there was evidence that Franz Groth had given British Intelligence agents economic information.

Special chemicals for sabotage

Life sentences were passed by the Dresden High Court May 17th on two saboteurs who had attempted to use special acids to sabotage vital factory machinery. Sentences ranging from three to fifteen years imprisonment were passed on three other saboteurs.

Evidence was given that the leaders of the group, which went by the code name "Anita" received their instructions from the West Berlin "Fighting Group against Inhumanity."

On these two pages GERMAN REPORT gives some details of the acts of sabotage and provocation decently in the German Democratic Republic.

Huge sums are obviously being sent sending agents from West Berlin and West Germany to the security and the peaceful construction of the Republic, but list of frustrated attacks shows that the people are becoming in protecting what they have built out of the ruins.

Commenting on the severe punishment meted out to agents and saboteurs, Deputy Prime Minister Ulbricht stated: "If a bandit goes round setting fires and killing citizens down, then he is arrested and punished. If American Commissioner McCloy did not send these bandits to attack us, we would not need to arrest or sentence them."

LIFE FOR W. BERLIN GANGSTERS

Two West Berlin thugs who had operated with explosives, arson, knives and fists against peaceful construction in East Berlin were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic on May 14th.

The two men were Herbert Hoese, aged 30, and Helmut Metz, aged 23. Two co-accused, Alfred Gudelius, aged 19, and Harry Menzel, aged 19, were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and 10 years imprisonment respectively.

Passing sentence Frau Hilde Benjamin, Vice-President of the Supreme Court, stated:

"The present situation is one in which the supporters of war are continually increasing their attacks on the camp of peace. This means that we have to act sternly and without mercy against all those who dare to menace our peace and the peace of the world."

Workers at trial

Delegations from many factories in the Democratic Sector of Berlin attended the trial, at which evidence was given that Herbert Hoese and Alfred Gudelius were registered members of the West Berlin "Fighting Group against Inhumanity", which openly boasts that it receives official U. S. support and that it organises sabotage in East Germany.

Among the charges against Hoese were that he had brutally beaten and knocked unconscious the woman conductor of a street-car who had tried to stop him from pasting incitements to war and to race-hatred on the windows of the car; that he had kidnapped the People's Police man Walter Schoenherr, beaten him and stabbed him; and that he had used explosives and arson in his work against the democratic order in East Berlin.

Under cross-examination Hoese stated that he knew that American officers often confered with Rainer Hildebrandt, notorious chief of the "Fighting Group against Inhumanity" at its office at 106 Kurfuerstendamm in West Berlin.

"I often helped to unload thousands of leaflets, phosphorous ampules, and stink bombs marked 'Made in U. S. A.' from cars with American licence numbers standing in front of the office," he stated.

War Propaganda

(GERMAN REPORT has inspected some of the pamphlets and leaflets distributed by Hoese and his gang. They could not, by any stretch of the imagination, be described as "democratic political propaganda". The most harmless of the leaflets were scurrilous lies designed to whip up a war complex, but many of them in addition called openly for political murder, acts of sabotage, and preparations for war against the German Democratic Republic, People's Poland and other countries.)

Helmut Metz testified that he was a member of the so-called "Freedom League" organised by reactionary leaders of the Social Democratic Party in West Berlin. Harry Menzel, the fourth accused, was also a member of this group.

Metz pleaded guilty to a number of acts of arson in the vicinity of the sector border through Berlin, and also to raiding and wrecking offices of the Free German Trade Union Federation, the Free German Youth and the Socialist Unity Party in the West Sectors of Berlin.

"In the membership card of the Freedom League' of which I was a member there was a special space for entering the results of courses," testified Metz. "These courses were held by instructors of the West Berlin police, and included lessons on the use of pistols and tommy-guns.

"On September 4th 1951 eight of us raided the rooms of the Socialist Unity Party in the Eulerstrasse, West Berlin. We smashed a window and climbed in, but just as we were starting to wreck the furniture, a West Berlin police patrol interrupted us, and took us to the police station. When we explained that we were carrying out the instructions of Alfred Kell, the ward secretary of the Social Democratic Party, the police officer in charge gave us two policemen to see that nobody interrupted us while we finished the job. He told us that when we had a job like that to do in future we should notify the police first to prevent confusion.

Union raided

"When we raided the offices of the Free German Trade Unions in the Wriezener Strasse in West Berlin we stole the membership lists of the Metal Workers Union and details on the election of shop stewards in 1946 and 1948. This material we handed over to Kurt Neumann, the 'technical chief' of the Freedom League, and to Social Democratic Councillor Werner Henschel."

Earlier in the hearing Herbert Hoese, who had also taken part in this raid, testified that he was later called to the French Commandant's office (the raided trade union branch lay in the French Sector) and cross-examined on the whereabouts of the files which had been stolen.

Stealing files

"They told me that if I stole such files again I should bring them without fail to the French Commandant," Hoese said.

The four men were found guilty of a number of offences against Article 6 of the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic, which brands as criminal offences:

"Attacks or instigation to attacks on democratic organisations; instigation to murder directed against democratic statesmen; the publication or utterance of race and national hatred; militaristic propaganda and warmongering..."

They were also charged under Paragraph 5 of the Law for the Defence of Peace, which lays down heavy penalties for:

"... attacking or persecuting fighters for peace."

Pronouncing sentence Frau Benjamin gave a warning that membership in such organisations as the "Fighters Against Inhumanity" constituted in itself an offence against Article 6 of the Constitution.

"Such organisations are terrorist organisations which attack the democratic development of the German Democratic Republic, and the arm of democratic justice will deal with them with the utmost firmness," she stated.

The official U. S. newspaper in West Germany "Neue Zeitung" described the sentences passed as "absolutely outside the bounds of legality".

"No state in which the rule of law was respected would pass a sentence of more than three month imprisonment for such minor acts, which can only be considered as punishable at all on the basis of a party-political special ruling," stated the American newspaper.

In its report of the case the newspaper failed to report that evidence showed that the accused had indulged in such "minor acts" as kidnapping, arson, stabbing and common assault, apart from their main job of war-mongering.

American spy caught in the act

A West German who had been sent into the German Democratic Republic charged with a spying mission for the U. S. Intelligence Service has been arrested in Saxony, the Ministry of State Security announced.

The spy, 27 year old Hans Skaptschik, was found to be armed. In his pockets was coded information on nationally-owned factories and People's Police units.

Investigation revealed that Skaptschik, who was unemployed, had been recruited in 1951 by Captain Mercurio of the Bayreuth branch of the U. S. Counter Intelligence Corps. After a training period he had been sent repeatedly into East Germany charged with various tasks of sabotage and espionage, including the collecting of information on Soviet troops.

He had been equipped by the Munich Police with a faked identity card of the German Democratic Republic, made out in the name of Hans-Karl Sander of Leipzig.

(See also page 6)

"Please protect our borders . . ." Peasants appeal to President Pieck

East German villagers living near the border which runs through Germany have appealed to President Wilhelm Pieck to protect them against constant pin-pricks and attacks from the western side of the border, from actual shootings and other provocative actions. One such letter, signed by peasants from four villages near Plauen stated:

"American tanks and cars constantly appear at the demarcation line, and American cars, from which shots are fired, frequently drive through the village of Sachsgruen. Our forests are endangered by planned forest fires started on the western side of the border. Agents and saboteurs dispatched by the Adenauer government are funnelled into the Republic through our villages, and in several cases these agents have shot at villagers.

"Please take steps in the interest of the whole German people to protect our borders from such acts of provocation."

Shots and Agents on Zonal Border

Acts of provocation in the vicinity of the zonal border which divides East and West Germany have become frequent in the past few weeks, East German government spokesmen declared. Overt acts included:

On April 26th western agents interfered in the festival held by the volunteer fire-brigade of Harras, a little village just east of the zonal border, and tried to persuade villagers to cross illegally to the west. When People's Police attempted to restore order, West German frontier guards fired several bursts from their submachine guns.

On May 10th, near the village of Melpers, a group of provocateurs from the American Zone penetrated nearly three quarters of a mile into the territory of the German Democratic Republic. Their incursion was watched by American Military Police in jeeps.

On the same date West German frontier police, patrolling in the vicinity of the British Zone village of Bohrsheim, fired a number of shots at People's Police who were on duty more than 200 yards inside East Germany.

On May 11th two rifle shots were fired from West German territory at a People's Police patrol near Wuelperode.

On the same date shots were fired by West German police at a People's Police Post near Veltheim. A mixed unit of West German police and British soldiers was observed in the vicinity.

Museum wants your help

The Museum of German History, which is being built up in Berlin on the initiative of the East German government, has appealed for help in collecting the exhibits needed to show "that history is not made by Kaisers and generals, but by the working people in town and country".

The museum asks particularly for objects such as historical documents, photographs, pamphlets, clothing and tools from different historical periods.

Such objects, the proper place for which is in this central museum, are at present scattered all over the world. In Britain and America there must be for instance valuable printed material on the lives and struggles of progressive Germans who in the past two hundred years have sought refuge in foreign countries from militarism and repression.

Anyone who is in possession of such material is asked to **write with particulars** in the first place to GERMAN REPORT. All offers will be passed on to the museum authorities.

No demolitions

The town council of Siegen, American Zone, has unanimously rejected an American order to construct demolition chambers in the four bridges across the river which runs through the town.

London "Times" looks at West Germany

From the "Times" dated May 9th and 10th

"As someone has put it, West Germany is going somewhere fast without knowing where. Much reconstruction is a facade that conceals the grim living conditions of thousands who still dwell in the cellars of bombed buildings or, as in the case of some 50,000 miners, have hardly a hope of having their families with them.

"But the facade is impressive. There are shining new palaces of banking, industry and commerce in Frankfurt, Cologne, and Duesseldorf and many other cities; new bridges across the Rhine; and capital found for much speculative building of hotels, theatres and shops. Dr. Erhard's free economy ensures that the shops are full for those with money to buy—a small enough minority, given the gap between basic wages and the cost of living. There is no rationing in this new-found plenitude.

"Many new fortunes have been made, mainly by those who reaped a quick harvest from concealed stocks of consumer goods after currency reform. It is said that most foreign cars on the French Riviera these days come from Germany.

"Signs of luxury and the new rich are evident in the Ruhr, with its expanding industrial capacity and full employment and its steady drive into the world export markets. A blacker story is that of the refugees in areas like Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony, where most towns and villages, unscathed by bombing, maintain twice their normal population. It is here that the Horst Wessel song and the Badenweiler march may be heard in the beer-cellars as resurgent nazism consolidates its strength . . .

"Most Germans, divided and embittered, now seem to be thinking in terms of restoration to modes and structures of the past that have already failed them. Hence we find a marked pandering to monarchical forms among the impoverished bourgeoisie.

"The Ruhr industrialists are seen in allied quarters as awaiting rearmament contracts with mixed feelings of apprehension and gratification. For the time being however, they seem far more interested in export contracts and the immediate resumption of trade with their natural markets in eastern Europe. Discussion with people from all walks of life has elicited far less unqualified support for the raising of a new army than for the renewal of discussions with Russia, and there are those in allied councils who forsee that the Russians will raise the bidding before the Bonn agreements are ratified . . .

"Former officers with memories of the Russian campaign say "Rearmament means war;" and they ask how the generals once in the saddle again could fail to look to the recovery of the lost frontiers. One found the same conviction stated in different terms in the opinion of a well-known editor that if the United States and Russia did not come to grips it must be for Germany to provide the necessary provocation."

I WORK AT THE MAX FOUNDRY

By Jan Koplowitz, GERMAN REPORT Industrial Correspondent

"Unterwellenborn" shouts the porter, and we push off the little local train at the station for the Max Foundry. Morning shift is just going on, and I swim with the warm stream of men bound for their jobs.

The road leading up to the main entrance is bright and colourful with placards, special placards changed every day showing the progress made in each department by the various shifts.

Proud Placards

Almost everyone looks at the placards as he goes by, paying particular attention to the one dealing with his shop.

"Blast furnace 4 — Eisen shift 111 %" says one notice, with the added comment "Feuer shift left large quantities of slag in the pouring spout, making work difficult for following shift."

The Ott shift in the rolling mill reports proudly on its placard "Production figure 117 % of target. The surplus production will provide girders for building the new Berlin."

The placards are not just empty words. The shift leader of the careless shift who left the slag scratches his head in embarrassment, while Baumann from the rolling mill looks around to get his shift together so that they can produce more steel for Berlin than the Ott shift.

No Bent Backs

As I stand noting down the details of the scene in my notebook, a wrinkled old worker, Friedrich from the boiler-house, plucks at my sleeve.

"Different from what it used to be" he says. "You see it in their backs."

He points to the men of the night shift, who are beginning to pour out of the gate.

"I have been working here for 30 years now" he says. "In the old days, when this place used to belong to the Flick Trust, we used to come out differently. Bent backs, no smiles, fagged out. It wasn't so much the sweating and the hard work as the fact we had nothing to hope for. But look at them now."

We looked. A bunch of apprentices, just off duty, had started a football game, and some of the older workers were joining in. There was a small queue in front of the newspaper stand. Groups had gathered round the various notice-boards, arguing and discussing. Plenty of grumbling too, but confident grumbles with the feeling that the things one was complaining about would soon improve.

But I must hurry, for I have been invited to attend the morning production conference. The conference gets under way without a minute's delay. The technical chief of the foundry, Linder, opens the discussion. He is a type of man you do not often see in a leading position in the German Democratic Republic any more. He has duelling scars and a clipped Prussian manner of speaking.

But there is a job for everyone who honestly wants to work, and the new spirit of the foundry has broken through even his reserve, so that his eyes shine as he can report a new success in pushing up production figures.

The other men round the table, nearly all of them workers who have spent the best part of their lives in the shops, are enough guarantee that there will not be any Prussianism in the way things are done. Business is done quickly and efficiently, and my notebook fills with figures and notes.

Hot and Bothered

Then on to the office of the director of the cultural department. There have been three calls for me — the theatre group want to have a rehearsal, the trade school wants to know when I can give the promised lecture on literature to the apprentices, and the foundry trade union committee is all hot and bothered about a public criticism which I had made of the bad level of their cultural work.

During the day I find time to drop in at the youth furnace, entirely run by young men under 25 years old.

"What are you doing here?" I asked Franz, a quick deft boy of eighteen. "I thought you were going to take a course at a technical school."

"Not me" said Franz. "That's just kid stuff. I am going to study soon at the workers' and peasants' faculty of the Freiburg University."

Poetry Critic

Before I can get away one of his colleagues brings me a long poem he has written, and wants criticism on the spot. "Bring it to the writers' circle tonight" I tell him.

Then off to the discussion in the People's University, to the theatre group, to all the different cultural activities to which the foundrymen (and foundrywomen) are devoting their spare time, and in which they are getting every support.

It is late before I can get back to my little room, inside the factory, next to the rolling mill. I have only got to the third chapter so far, in the novel I am trying to write.

This is the second time through, because the publishers returned my first 70 pages with the remark: "It may be true, but you don't make it convincing."

The novel is about the Max Foundry of course, and a lot of it may seem unbelievable to those who have not worked here.

A group of men from the night shift have seen my light, and want to hear how the book is going. There is nothing for it — after all it is their book — and I must read them the newest pages.

Workers Help

Georg, a lanky man from the pressing works, interrupts. "That's all wrong" he says. "None of us working on the machine would say 'that is suitable' unless we were trying to be funny. Put in 'that's the job' and it will sound fine."

The men sitting on the edge of the table and on my bed nod. They are really thinking about the book, because they know that I am writing about their job, and they want me to write the truth and they want it to be good.

The dinner break is over, and they are off, back to their machines. I open the window, and look out at the fiery spectacle of furnace and mill.

There is plenty of reason for me to feel proud when I can say "I am working at the Max Foundry."

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Someone once told me that indestructibly optimistic speculators still buy and sell stock in the Lena gold fields in Siberia and the Caucasian oil-wells, yellowing old scraps of paper which have been worthless since these enterprises were nationalised by the young Soviet state in 1917.

I was reminded of this the other day when I read a report in a West German newspaper of a meeting of industrialists in West Germany, called to consider what should be done with the nationally-owned factories in East Germany when Germany has once more been united.

Big differences

(There is of course a great difference between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic: there has been no nationalisation law here, and many considerable enterprises are run very successfully by private businessmen. But practically all the basic factories, the steel-works and the mines were formerly owned by nazis.

They were sequestrated after the war, under the terms of the Potsdam Agreement, and are now nationally owned, producing for the good of all, in the frame work of the Five Year Plan.)

You can guess without any exertion what the West German industrialists want to do with them. One of the industrialists, Herr Binder, said:

"Even the Social Democrats cannot be expected to insist that the factories should not be returned to their owners. The old banks must be allowed to open their branches again. The State trading organisation must be handed over to private enterprise."

Professor Thalheim thought that it would be only right and proper if the old owners were immediately given the custodianship of their factories even if the formal handing back took a little longer. And so on.

Cannon kings

And who were the former owners of these nationally-owned factories and banks? For instance Alfried Krupp, the cannon king of the Ruhr; the I. G. Farben Chemical Trust, who made the gas for the nazi gas-chambers; Hermann Abs, Hitler's banker, and dozens of others of a similar type.

But the hopes of these industrialists are just as vain as the dreams of the speculator who invests a few dollars in Baku oil stock. Whatever industrial reorganisation the reunification of Germany may involve it will certainly not include the return of the factories to war criminals.

Buchwald's baloney

I hope that readers are not yet tired of my comments on the inexactitude of some of the reports in the western press on events in East Germany, because I fear that such comments are likely to figure in the Berlin Notebook for quite a while to come.

Latest culprit is Art Buchwald, columnist of the Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune, who generally confines himself to quite amusing accounts of cafe society in Paris, about which he obviously knows something.

On May 7th, however, he tried his hand at a column on the May Day demonstrations in Berlin. Here is a small sample:

"We sneaked into the East Sector through the back streets ... As a precaution we ripped off our tie (the first mark of a capitalist), tried to rumple our suit and kicked up enough dust to dirty our shoes. In this disguise we hoped to look like a loyal East Berlin worker ..."

Brown shirts?

"Before we knew it we were parading down Unter den Linden with the workers of the world. We looked round and found ourselves sandwiched between the East Berlin transport workers and an organisation of Communist Youth, who were wearing uniforms of brown shirts.

"The gaily decorated reviewing stands were filled with pictures ... but there was some room left for East Berlin Mayor Pieck."

Really Mr. Buchwald, you should be able to do better than that.

If you really were in East Berlin at all, not just sleeping it off under the table of a West Berlin bar, you would have noticed:

a) Most of the marchers were dressed up in their best suits, with their trousers (pants to you) neatly pressed, because they regard May Day as a festival. Some hundreds of thousands were probably wearing ties, too.

b) You cannot have seen any organisation of Communist Youth, for there is no such organisation in Germany. You probably saw members of the Free German Youth, a broad organisation which includes Christians, cooperators and others, and which wears b l u e shirts.

c) The East Berlin Mayor is named Ebert, and Pieck is the President of the German Democratic Republic.

So back to the Rue Pigalle, Mr. Buchwald. Remember that if you mislead an American tourist on where to see spicy Paris night life, it would not cause more than a barroom brawl, but if you put out the sort of phoney poison contained in your Berlin column then you are helping to lay the groundwork for a new war.

But honour where honour is due. The crack at the end of this page is adapted from your column.

Quins next?

Printing mistakes in greater variety and splendour than in any previous issue distinguished the issue of GERMAN REPORT dated May 9th. It is not very serious when the main article refers to "police quads" instead of "police squads". Indeed some readers may have found it funny. "Kidnappers" spelled with only one "p" is perhaps worse, particularly since I hear that several schools in the German Democratic Republic have started to use GERMAN REPORT in their English lessons.

Serious and perhaps confusing, however, was the third paragraph from the last on this page of the previous issue. As alert readers will have worked out for themselves the first three lines of General Howley's war mongering statement should have read:

"The United States should not consent to the reunification of Germany until **Russia** returns ..."

My apologies, and the sincere hope that such a blunder does not slip past us again.

Crack of the week

West German patriots, who are rather tired of American occupation troops, paint "Ami Go Home" on the walls.

The business manager of Pan-American Airways recently visited West Germany. Suddenly he had a brainwave. Since then a team of painters has been hard at work. Wherever they find the slogan "Ami Go Home" they neatly add the words "By Pan-American".

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